

YENCHING NEWS

Vol. 2

Yenching University, Peiping, China, Tuesday, March 17, 1936

No. 47

Nash Going to America for Work on Memorial

Return Requested by the Williams Foundation—Family Will Remain in Yenching

A cable was received Sunday from Dean Frank L. Martin of the School of Journalism of the University of Missouri requesting, in the name of the Walter Williams Journalism Foundation, that Vernon Nash return to the United States at once for several month's work on its behalf. An endowment is being sought whose income will be used for the continued support of those projects in which Dean Williams was most interested. The department of journalism is one of the few things specifically mentioned in the Foundation's articles of incorporation.

Since it is hoped that he will be able to return to Yenching by the opening of the new school year next September, Mrs. Nash and the children will remain here until the summer. If it should be decided then that the financial efforts in America should be continued for a longer period, they will join him in America.

Mr. Nash plans to sail on the "Jackson" for Seattle from Yokohama April 4. It will therefore be necessary for him to leave Peiping sometime near the end of next week. As the "Hoover" is due in the Japanese port about that same date, he hopes to have a conference with Dr. Stuart there. The cable just received was sent after a conference by the president with the officers of the memorial committee at Columbia, Mo., last week.

Two main considerations are believed to have been responsible for the request for Mr. Nash's services as field worker for the Foundation, in addition to the obvious one that Yenching is one of the principal proposed beneficiaries. The Foundation's charter follows in its essentials a memorandum worked out by him in frequent consultation with Dr. Williams when Mr. Nash was visiting professor at Missouri in 1932. The endowment funds will

be sought chiefly from intimate friends of the Dean, from leading journalists, and from newspapers. It was from these groups that the original Missouri-Yenching Journalism Fund of \$70,000 was obtained in 1927-28, chiefly by the cultivation and solicitation efforts of Mr. Nash.

Tonsillitis Afflicts Singer; Musicales Today Postponed

Tonsillitis caused the postponement of a musicale here today. Mr. Benjamin Chen of Shanghai, who was scheduled to sing this afternoon at Gamble Hall under the auspices of the Music Club of Yenching, is unable to appear. The musicale will take place as soon as Mr. Chen recuperates. Mrs. E.O. Wilson and Miss Veghte are the two other principals of the recital. Mr. Ch'en is a brother of Miss Ch'en I.

Mr. L. M. Mead Comes Home

There was much pleasure throughout the community Saturday as word went round that Mr. L. M. Mead had been able to return to his home from the P.U.M.C. He is still able to receive few visitors for the present, and it is uncertain whether it will be possible or not for him to resume his work in the department of English this semester.

Term Grades Excite Coeds, Upperclassmen Indifferent

The Registration Bureau in Bashford had the appearance of being besieged Friday morning, when many students, impatient for their semester grades, rushed the Bureau to obtain their respective work-books. Different expressions were observed on the students' faces as they walked out of Bashford Hall. Women students seemed especially excited at their grades, while the upper-class men were rather indifferent to them.

Physics Graduate Gets All A's at Univ. of Michigan

Miss Sheng Hsi-yin, graduate from the Department of Physics in 1932, is doing excellent post-graduate work in physics in the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. A letter received recently by Dr. Y. M. Hsieh revealed that she recorded three "A's" and an "A-" as the final grades for the four courses she took last semester.

Miss Sheng joined the University of Michigan only last fall, after having taught for two years at Hua Chung College, Wuchang, following her graduation from Yenching. The University of Michigan is well-known for its physics courses, especially along the line of spectral analysis.

Few Public Affairs Grads Are in Schools, Says Han

Many Yenching graduates of the College of Public Affairs have held government posts in Nanking and Shanghai for four or five years despite political shake-ups, according to a statement by Han Ching-lien of the University Admissions Bureau, appearing in the February issue of the Quarterly News of the College of Public Affairs.

Han, in the report of graduates from the departments of political science, economics, and sociology, notes also that an increasing number of these graduates who are now in Nanking and Shanghai are connected with political or business circles, whereas those in the interior are mostly connected with educational work.

Contrary to popular assumption, the majority of these graduates are not engaged in teaching, only 17 per cent of the political science graduates, 20 per cent from the economics department, and 24 per cent from the sociology department being in schools or universities.

Oriental Institute Head Furthers Work in Peiping

A recent visitor to Peiping was Mr. Gregg Sinclair of the English department of the University of Hawaii and director of the Oriental Institute who arrived last Friday. Mr. Sinclair who is on a round-the-world tour is expecting to remain in Peiping for four days, during which time he expects to gather suggestions and interview prospects for the personnel of this Institute, a newly formed organization, whose purpose is to promote and disseminate knowledge about the Orient in America.

Some of the Yenching faculty members have been approached by Mr. Sinclair. It is reported that he will also endeavor to induce Dr. Hu Shih, Chiang Mon-lin and other Chinese and foreign scholars to lecture in America also.

Mr. Sinclair was responsible for bringing Hamlin Garland, dean of American Letters, Christopher Morley, Carl Sandburg and Thornton Wilder to be guest lecturers at the University of Hawaii several years ago.

Yenta Calendar

Today, Tuesday, March 17.

8:00 p.m. Mid-week prayer meeting

Sage

Wednesday, March 18.

8:55 a.m. Ninde Chapel

8:55 a.m. Sage Chapel

Individual activity

Dr. D. L. Phelps

Thursday, March 19.

8:55 a.m. Ninde Chapel

8:55 a.m. Sage Chapel

Music

Mr. J. C. Hou

Friday, March 20.

8:55 a.m. Ninde Chapel

8:55 a.m. Sage Chapel

8:00 p.m. Victrola Concert

Devotions

Miss S. C. Wu

Gamble Hall

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The Yenching News

English Section of the *Yenching Hsin Wen*, (燕京新聞) laboratory publication of the Department of Journalism of Yenching University, Peiping, China.

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The Annotator

It has been interesting to follow the exchanges among students in our Chinese section on the question of the latinization of Chinese. Such study as I have made has convinced me of two things: (1) romanized Chinese is feasible only for simple colloquial with a quite limited vocabulary and a style which includes an abundance of classifiers and polysyllabic phrases; (2) even if one is mistaken in the first conviction, it is utterly certain that such a change will be long delayed in its consummation; it is therefore at least equally important that wide consideration be given to the removal of disadvantages involved in the use of ideograms, preeminently in indexing and filing.

Snap Judgments Seem to Abound

It is taken for granted that a language in the roman alphabet can be learned more quickly than one in ideographic script. This has not yet been demonstrated experimentally. The assumption is based upon confusion of thought, I believe, arising out of the insufficiently differentiated mixture of literature, history, and calligraphy in the present teaching of Chinese. When China gets more adequate materials and trained teachers for instruction in the language *only*, it will be possible to make some controlled experiments and draw some reasoned conclusions.

The ideograms are generally thought to be a severe handicap in printing. It has not yet been proved that hand-composition of types, with the low wage scales existing in China, is more expensive in this

country than linotype machines would be. Moreover, it is highly significant that the stereotyping process and the resultant ability to use rotary processes (the two most important elements in modern speed and volume printing) are stages in printing which come *after* the type has been set and the pages made up. They can therefore be used in Chinese vernacular publishing houses just as well as in the West, and are being so used all over China.

The 'Modernize' Argument Back-fires

If romanization were practicable for all purposes in the Chinese language, there would be much to be said for conformity with the rest of the world. But when it is urged that keeping ideograms is like preferring skins to cloth for clothes, etc., one would reply that the needs of modern commercial, industrial and even cultural life is actually driving mankind in the romanized-language countries to a steadily increasing use of hieroglyphs. Instances abound in highway signs, commercial trade-marks, industrial blue-prints, non-alphabetic scientific formulae, and so on. Even the philosophers are showing an increasing interest in symbolic logic.

Ideographic script, quite similar in its intrinsic character to Chinese ideograms, is being adopted more and more throughout the world, especially in places where it is imperative that the meaning be conveyed as directly as possible in a minimum of time and with the least possible chance of misunderstanding. Note the lightning-like emblem now almost universally used to give warning of the presence of high-voltage wires. So far from being behind the procession, it is quite possible that China blazed a trail milleniums ago which we must all follow.

Ideograms More Universal Than Eng.

When one considers that most literate persons everywhere now use and recognize arabic digits, \$, £, %, &, @, ?, and scores of other ideographic symbols, a case can be made for the prediction that the first truly international language will be expressed in ideograms rather than in the roman alphabet. —V.N.

Lowenthal Ends Research On Chinese Catholic Press

Dr. Rudolf Lowenthal, thesis adviser of the journalism department, recently finished his research on the Catholic press in China. This publication, which involved several months of research work, contains forty pages, includes a descriptive chart of all the Catholic publications in China showing the distribution of the Catholic Press in China. Some of the former publications of Dr. Lowenthal are surveys of the Peiping press and the Tientsin press, the "Present Status of the Press in China" and the "Present Status of the Film in China." Some of these publications have appeared in the *Digest of the Synodal Commission* and the *Social and Political Science Review*.

Reprints of the article on the Catholic Press will be distributed at an exhibition of Roman Catholic journalism throughout the world to be held in the Vatican within the coming year. The article and booklet contain a map of China, showing the distribution of the Catholic Press in China, which was drawn for the Synodal Commission by Ku T'ing-ch'ang, journalism senior in Yenching.

Vaccination Campaign to Start Soon

A vaccination campaign against small-pox will be conducted soon by the University Medical Service. Those in the community who have not been vaccinated for the past two or three years will be invited to take it free of charge.

Injections for immunity from cholera will also be held as soon as the vaccination campaign is over. A reasonable medicinal fee will be charged for the injections.

Tickets for

Variety Entertainment
Men's Brotherhood
P.U.M.C. Auditorium—March 19
Available at
Yenta University Bookstore

White Heads Forum Committee

Mr. J.D. White is chairman of the program committee of the Men's Brotherhood which is in charge of the arrangements for the variety entertainment Thursday night of this week. He writes concerning it: "The committee is proud to present a group of unique performers; the show will go over with the proverbial bang."

New Tennis Committee Nominated

The outgoing committee has nominated the following officers for the Faculty Central Tennis Club for 1936: Dr. R. C. Sailer, captain; Miss Mary Cookingham, business manager; Mrs. J. B. Tayler and Messrs. H. T. T'ien and Stephen Tsai, members of the executive committee. Mr. L. M. Mead was the 1935 captain.

Pre-medics Entertain PUMC Medicos

Our Pre-medics entertained the P.U.M.C. students from Yenching last Friday afternoon here. In basketball, the medical students, showing the effects of lack of exercise, lost 10-2. On the football field, however, the guests managed to squeeze out a scoreless tie. They headed for the city soon after finishing dinner here.

Busload Sees "Two-Cities" Together

A party from Yenching braved the Saturday jam to see "A Tale of Two Cities," after which they gathered by pre-arrangement at a Chinese restaurant for dinner as a surprise birthday party for Mrs. H. B. Price. They returned to the campus by special bus.

Clement C. Wang, D. D. S.

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